

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (currently amended) A ~~multimedia data recording apparatus~~ monitoring system comprising:

a multimedia data recording apparatus comprising:

a layer classifier ~~classification section~~ that classifies multimedia data into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to data contents or data precision;

a ~~recording section~~ recorder that continuously records data classified into said layers in a memory; and

a data amount ~~reduction section~~ reducer that, when vacant capacity of said memory is at or below a threshold value, performs deletion in an order starting with data classified into a lower layer of said hierarchical layers among data recorded in said memory;

said monitoring system further comprising:

a measurer that measures frequency of access to data recorded in said memory;

and

a changer that changes at least one or a plurality of layers in which data whose frequency of access is greater than or equal to a predetermined value among data recorded in said memory to a protected layer that is not subject to data amount reduction by said data amount reducer.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The ~~multimedia data recording apparatus~~ monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said layer classification section classified said multimedia data ~~multimedia data is recorded~~ classified into a plurality of hierarchical layers according to frame rate, required image quality or resolution, image variation amount between frames, required storage time, MPEG (Moving Picture Experts Group) data picture type, importance of a recorded event, or an enhancement layer of data coded by an MPEG scalable coding method.

4. (canceled)

5. (currently amended) The ~~multimedia data recording apparatus~~ monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein said data amount ~~reduction section~~ reducer performs deletion in an order starting with older data among data or less important data recorded in a lower layer.

6. (currently amended) The ~~multimedia data recording apparatus~~ monitoring system according to claim 5, wherein said data amount ~~reduction section~~ reducer does not delete data that has not passed a minimum storage time among data recorded in a lower layer.

7. (currently amended) The ~~multimedia data recording apparatus~~ monitoring system according to claim 1, wherein:

said layer ~~classification section~~ classifier sets said multimedia data in a plurality of segments according to a time of acquisition of ~~this~~ the data and then classifies said multimedia data into said layers for each said segment; and

said data amount ~~reduction section~~ reducer selects a segment whose said time of acquisition is older, and performs deletion in an order starting with data recorded in a lower layer within ~~this~~ the segment.

8-11. (canceled)